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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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PO BOX 202501  
HELENA MT 59620-2501  
www.opi.mt.gov  
(406) 444-3095  
(888) 231-9393  
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent

December 6, 2007

To: Authorized Representatives  
Directors of Special Education

From: Bob Runkel  
Assistant Superintendent

Re: Funding for persons who are developmentally disabled and are not yet 19 years of age to return to high school after graduation.

***Note: Available funds are restricted and can only be used to provide funding for persons who are developmentally disabled and are not yet 19 years of age to return to high school after graduation or to receive work/day services from the Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP).***

HB 195 (2007 regular session) appropriated from the general fund \$156,640 in fiscal year 2008 and \$161,320 in fiscal year 2009 to the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to provide services to individuals who have graduated from high school but have not turned 19 years of age on or before September 10 in the school year or years following graduation and who are qualified to receive developmental disability services from the DPHHS.

If services are to be provided during the remainder of the current school year, the individual must be a high school graduate with developmental disabilities and the individual must not have turned 19 years of age on or before September 10, 2007. For services to be provided in the 2008-2009 school year, the individual must not turn 19 years of age on or before September 10, 2008.

The funding can be used to provide payments to a school district that admits an individual to school or provide direct assistance to an individual to purchase community-based services provided the individual qualifies under the provisions of HB 195. HB 195 also amended 20-5-101 MCA, Admittance of a Child to School, by permitting the trustees, at their discretion, to assign and admit a child to school who has graduated from high school but is not yet 19 years of

age even though no special circumstances exist for waiver of the age provision in 20-5-101 MCA.

HB 195 did not amend statutes prohibiting districts from collecting BASE Aid funding for individuals who have graduated from high school. The only funding available to schools to serve the population identified in HB 195 is funding from the HB 195 appropriation. Federal IDEA Part B funds cannot be used.

If your district is interested in admitting a recent graduate with developmental disabilities to provide the opportunity for the individual to continue their education, schools should first contact the individual or his/her family to determine the individual's interest in returning to school. If the individual is interested, schools should work with the individual's development disabilities case manager to develop a plan of care with specific goals and objectives for the individual along with a cost plan.

The DPHHS administers this program and has made the funds available on a first-come first-served basis until the HB195 appropriation for the current state fiscal year is depleted. Date of eligibility will be determined upon approval of the completed referral, including the plan of care and cost plan submitted to DDP Central Office, 111 North Sanders, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604. For more information see the attached HB 195 Services Protocol provided by the Developmental Disabilities Program. If you need further information, contact Jeff Sturm, Program Director, Developmental Disabilities Program, at 444-2695 or you can contact Bob Runkel at 444-4434.

Attachment: HB 195 Services Protocol

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM**

**HB 195 Services Protocol**

HB195 provides funding for persons who are developmentally disabled and are not yet 19 years of age to return to high school after graduation or to receive work/day services from the Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP).

**Who is Eligible?**

Persons are eligible who:

1. Have been determined eligible for services through the DDP; and
2. Are high school graduates; and
3. Have not turned 19 years of age on or before September 10 in the upcoming school year; and
4. Are not currently in Medicaid-funded DDP services; and
5. Do not have funding available in a current DDP Individual Cost Plan (ICP) to purchase work/day services without HB195 funding. [Funding in the ICP for Adaptive Equipment and/or General Fund Family Education and Support (FES) services will be exempt from consideration of available funding.]

**Service Options**

Eligible persons may choose to:

1. Return to high school (if services are available) for an additional year of education.

**OR**

2. Receive work/day services (if available) through a qualified provider of community-based DDP services.

**Additional Clarification**

- Persons eligible for HB195 services will be notified by DDP Adult Case Managers. Individuals should work with their DDP Case Manager to develop a plan of care with specific goals and objectives for the individual along with a cost plan.
- Funds will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis until the HB195 appropriation for the current State Fiscal Year is depleted. Date of eligibility will be determined upon approval of the completed referral including the plan of care and cost plan submitted to DDP Central Office.
- The dates for the year of eligibility/service will coincide with the State Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 30).
- Persons who fit the age criteria are eligible for services for the entire school year or the entire State Fiscal Year (if in DDP work/day services) even though they may turn 19 during that time.
- Persons in HB195 services may also be on the DDP Waiting List and be eligible to participate the DDP screening process as openings become available

- Funds are one-time only and will not be annualized for continued services. At the end of the State Fiscal Year, any person who is no longer eligible for HB195 services will not be automatically transitioned to DDP services but can be placed on the DDP Waiting List and be eligible to participate in the DDP screening process as openings become available.
- Persons who graduate in June and are otherwise eligible can begin DDP work/day services on July 1.
- The amount of funding for each eligible person will be based on needs and determined on an individual basis.
- Persons choosing DDP work/day services will be required to have a DDP Case Manager.
- DDP will not be responsible to provide funding or services to persons who are eligible but live in an area where no services are available.

#### **DDP Billing/Contracting Procedures**

- Eligible persons choosing DDP work/day services will be awarded a one-time HB195 Grant from DDP which will be tracked through Appendix B (Annualized amount will be \$0).
- The DDP Contract will be amended to reflect the additional funds for any provider serving a person with an HB195 Grant. The work/day services provided will be invoiced through the regular DDP billing process.
- If the person chooses to return to high school, DDP will develop a contract with the school district for payment.